SENATE ON TRACK TO COMPLETE BUDGET FRIDAY

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Senate today continued work on the nation's business, and will remain in session through the evening debating amendments to the Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2004. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist and Senate Budget Committee Chairman Don Nickles indicated their intention to complete the Resolution Friday.

The Senate today passed an amendment accelerating death tax repeal by one year. Also today, the Senate continued to hold firm on its commitment to a \$726 billion jobs and growth package, rejecting an amendment that would have cut the package by over one-fourth.

Senator Mike Enzi on the need to press ahead on the Budget Resolution, "We need to do our regular work just like we expect everybody else in this country to do their regular work. And it's essential to the operation of this great country."

Senator Enzi on budgeting for war, "The regular budget has the regular items in it that you do on a regular basis. It isn't a war budget. Wars are not done on a regular basis in a regular way for a regular expense. And hopefully they never will be."

Senator Enzi on economic growth, "The budget process is where we say what the goals are for the next year for the regular operation of this country - not the emergency, not the war. The regular operation of this country. And one of the things that we've said is that the economy is down, that we need to do whatever we can to boost that economy up. It's one of the things that we've got to worry about. It's one of the things that we in Congress have to worry about."